

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
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1. In 1953, as in previous years, a Soviet fishing expedition has operated in the waters around and north of the Faroe Islands. The fleet this year was a large expedition made up of more than ten mother and supply ships and about 150 catch boats. The expedition's work seemed to have been started in the middle of April 1953 and to have finished during December of the same year. The ships which took part in the expedition were from Murmansk and from the Baltic.
2. The Soviet herring expedition from the Baltic, consisting of three or four supply ships and about 90 catch boats, had arrived in the Faroe waters about 1 September 1952. It was relieved around 1 November of the same year by a smaller group from Murmansk, consisting of one mother ship and about 25 catch boats.
3. With the exception of short intermissions, the Murmansk group was observed at the Faroe Islands until 24 January 1953. The group apparently returned to its home base. Until the latter part of April only single Soviet trawlers were observed near the Faroe Islands.
4. On 28 April 1953, Soviet catch boats were again reported in the Faroe waters, and, until 6 July, Soviet ships were observed daily in the waters around the Faroe Islands. This Soviet fishing fleet consisted at times of seven supply ships and a number of catch boats.
5. From 7 July until 13 September 1953 there were no Soviet vessels observed in the Faroe Island waters, but there were reports that a Soviet mother ship was observed near Jan Mayen. Large numbers of Soviet catch boats were also observed on the herring field between 67° to 69° North and 7° to 9° West.
6. From 14 September 1953 there were reports of Soviet catch boats in Faroe territorial waters at Fugle Fjord. Thereafter, four motherships and the supply ships, BORODINO, MEDVEDITSA, OLONETS, and URZHEM, and a number of catch boats were observed continuously in Faroe waters. Depending on the wind conditions, the mother ships lay at anchor out from the territory northeast

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to east-by-northeast of Nolsø, and at Guttagrynnna, which is located west of Sandø.

7. In the months of October and November, a number of Soviet supply ships and fishing vessels of the trawler type (SRT) stayed within [redacted] the Faroe Islands. A number of the fishing trawlers, whose home port was in the Baltic, went home during these months, but they were replaced by a number of trawlers from Murmansk during the last days of October.

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8. In late October the status of the Soviet ships in the Faroe Island waters was as follows:

- a. The SS NARWIK and the SS TOBRUK; both ships are Polish cargo steamers which were chartered by the Soviets as supply ships for the herring fleet.
- b. The OLONETS and the URZHUM.
- c. Approximately 35 SRT-trawlers, belonging to the Kaliningrad group.
- d. Approximately 45 SRT-trawlers, belonging to the Klaipeda group.
- e. Approximately 50 SRT-trawlers, belonging to the Murmansk group.

The approximate total given for the trawlers allows for the fact that there were always some trawlers sailing to and from their home ports.

9. The expedition was expected to conclude its work in December 1953; however, the TUNGUS and the vessels from the Murmansk group will continue the fishing, but the catching places will probably be moved more and more to the east.

Fishing Locations

10. For the most part, the fishing took place about 70 nautical miles northeast of the Faroe Islands, at Jan Mayen, and on the fields between 67° and 69° North, and 7° and 9° West.

11. The most used anchoring sites for the mother ships and the supply ships was northeast and east-by-northeast of Nolsø at a distance of about 10 nautical miles. They also anchored at Guttagrynnna, west of Sandø. Once they anchored between Viderø and Fuglø. Seven mother ships and about 90 SRT-trawlers were observed at the same time at Nolsø.

12. The following information was obtained [redacted]

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- a. [redacted] had been fishing during July, August, September, and October, and it had caught 250 tons of herring or about 2,500 barrels.
- b. The crew leaders [redacted] received 16,000 rubles during this period. The quartermasters received 10,000 rubles and each seaman received 6,000 rubles. In addition, the entire crew received free board, tobacco, and working clothes.
- c. The fishing permit of [redacted] expired on 4 October 1953. For this reason, the ship was to leave as soon as possible for Klaipeda for inspection, together with four others whose fishing permits had also expired.
- d. [redacted] fishing during July, August, September, and October. Its catch was 270 tons or 2,700 barrels. The ship was to leave for Klaipeda for inspection [redacted]
- e. [redacted] had fished for six months, and it had caught 400 tons or 4,000 barrels.

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- f. Three Soviet luggers had been equipped with hydrographic measuring devices. [redacted] 25X1
The three ships which had scientists on board had good results in pre-determining the existence of herring.
- g. Just prior to their departure, the Soviet ships fished on the average of 14 kilograms or about one and one-half barrels of herring per net. The net mesh measurements were 32 to 34 mm from knot to knot. Information received [redacted] which indicated that nylon nets had been tried but were given up, was confirmed. 25X1
- h. The ships were, according to size, equipped with from 60 to 120 nets. The total of the seagoing fishing ships (trawlers) based at Murmansk was [redacted] 200 to 300. 25X1
- i. [redacted] Popov (fnu) was the leader of the Klaipeda group, which consisted of about 50 catch boats. Popov was also the leader of the Klaipeda group in 1952. The expedition also consisted of a group of catch boats from Kaliningrad. 25X1
- j. The total catch of the Soviets was smaller in 1953 than in 1952. The average catch per boat for a full year of fishing was stated to have been around 1,000 tons. This agrees somewhat with the results in the fat herring season. In 1952, the Soviets attempted to use the floating trawl during the herring fishing in the North Atlantic, but the results were so poor that the attempts were not continued. On the other hand, in the North Sea the floating trawl for herring fishing was employed with good results.
13. The herring fishing, as in previous years, had the character of a large established fishing industry setup. The Soviets have apparently laid some weight on the fact that the expeditions should be self-sufficient; for example, there were tankers with oil and water in the fishing fleet. The expedition apparently was not able to be entirely self-sufficient, as a water tanker took water at Thorshavn in the Faroes on one occasion.
14. The expedition had a number of difficulties among which was the bad weather conditions. Apparently because of this problem, a Soviet Deputy Minister of Fish Industry, Kulikov, was in the area with the fishing expedition for an unstated period of time.
15. As the expedition apparently has had bad experience exchanging the catch in the open sea and with supplying the catch boats from the mother ship, the Soviets have put out feelers to investigate the possibilities of receiving permission to use a particular area of the Faroe territorial waters as a fishing basin.
16. The following mother and supply ships were observed:

	<u>BRT</u>	<u>NRT</u>
SS BORODINO	6864	5256
MS MEDVEDITSA	950	
SS NARVIK (Polish)	7031	4967
SS OLONETS	1978	1108
SS PAMYAT ILICHA	2339	1256
SS TAMBOV	2902	1696
SS TOBRUK (Polish)	7048	4777
SS TUNGUS	7194	4383
MT URZHUM	1169	394
SS VORKUTA	approximately 2400	

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Legend to the Sketch of the Faroe Island.

1. Four mother ships were observed in this area on 28 June 1953.
2. One mother ship was observed in this area on 20 October 1953.
3. Viderejde area. One or two mother ships were observed in this area between 18 and 31 October 1953.
4. Tjernevig area. One ship was observed in this area on 28 September 1953.
5. Funding Fjord. Two mother ships were observed in this area on 27 and 28 October 1953.
6. Two mother ships were observed in this area on 22 September 1953.
7. Fugle Fjord. Trawlers and mother ships were observed in this area between 28 April and 17 October 1953.
8. Arno Fjord. Trawlers were observed in this area between 9 May and 2 June 1953.
9. Skaale Fjord. One mother ship was observed in this area on 25 September 1953.
10. Lambavig area. One trawler was observed in this area between 25 May and 25 September 1953.
11. One mother ship was observed in this area between 30 April and 13 June 1953.
12. One mother ship was observed in this area on 30 September 1953.
13. Between one and seven mother ships were observed in this area between 4 May and 6 July.
14. Guttagrynnna area. One to three mother ships were observed in this area between 14 May and 5 June 1953.
15. Sand area. Trawlers were observed in this area between 15 and 25 May, and again on 23 September 1953.
16. One to three mother ships were observed in this area between 5 and 30 June 1953.

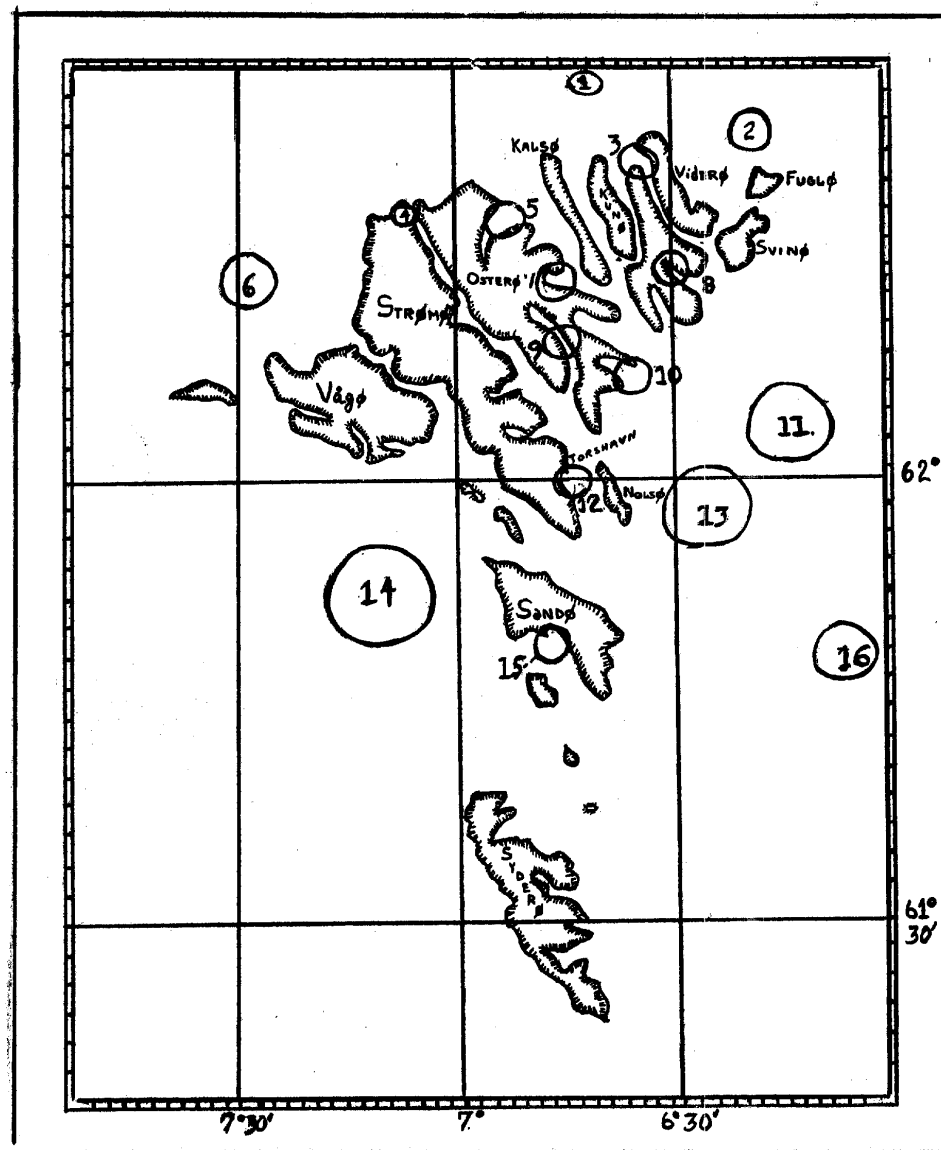
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Sketch of the Faroe Island Area:



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